



MEDIA RELEASE

**XVIII Airborne Corps Public Affairs Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEB. 18, 2004

SPECIAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM COMMITTEE
SPONSORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Fort Bragg Special Emphasis Program Committee is sponsoring a Black History Month Luncheon, Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m in the Lafayette Room of the Fort Bragg Officers' Club.

Guest speaker for the event is Dr. Marion Gillis-Olion, dean of the school of education, Fayetteville State University. The theme for the event is *Brown v. Board of Education (50th Anniversary)*. Additionally, Fort Bragg Praise is the featured entertainment for the event.

In the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kan.*, case, the U.S. Supreme Court held that segregation in public schools was a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

A unanimous court stated that racial separation, no matter how equal the facilities, branded minority children as inferior, thus hindering their development. The separate but equal doctrine of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), one of the first "Jim Crow" laws, was reversed. In 1955, the court added that schools must desegregate with deliberate speed. The *Brown* decision gave impetus to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and hastened the end of segregation in all public facilities.

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(Editor's note: Information about *Brown v. Board of Education* was found at

<http://www.pbs.org/itvs/homecoming/brownpop.html>. Media interested in covering the event must confirm with the Corps Media Relations Office at (910) 396-5600/5620 no later than 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 23. Upon confirmation, media will meet at Stryker Golf at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24.)